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Letter dated 15 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 9 October 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the Middle East peace process (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **de Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 9 October 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union, concerning the Middle East peace process

The European Union expresses its deep concern at the further worsening of the situation in the Middle East. It deplores the considerable increase in the number of victims resulting from the confrontations, terror, provocation and violence. It unreservedly voices its support for the Peres-Arafat dialogue, which must lead to a lasting political situation.

It appeals to the parties to implement in good faith the commitments they have entered into in the context of the ceasefire, and to open the direct dialogue which should be begun further to the Mitchell report's recommendations and to aim for urgent opening-up of a political perspective.

In this respect, the European Union calls on the parties to agree on an impartial surveillance mechanism which can help them to overcome their differences and the obstacles they are encountering in their efforts to achieve reconciliation. The European Union remains ready to contribute to such a mechanism.

The European Union moreover welcomes President Bush's declaration acknowledging the right of the Palestinians to a viable State provided that Israel's right to exist is guaranteed. This has long been the European Union's position.

To this end, the European Union emphasizes the full importance of an enhanced dialogue between the European Union and the United States. The European Union urges the United States to exert all its influence with a view to a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.